

11. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the subset of the stock inoculum material in step (ii) is added under aseptical conditions or under substantially aseptical conditions to the cultivation medium.

12. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the stock inoculum material is provided in sealed enclosures.

17. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the starter culture organism in step (I) originates from a species selected from the group consisting of a lactic acid bacterial species, a *Bifidobacterium* species, a *Propionibacterium* species, a *Staphylococcus* species, a *Micrococcus* species, a *Bacillus* species, an *Enterobacteriaceae* species including *E. coli*, an *Actinomycetes* species, a *Corynebacterium* species, a *Brevibacterium* species, a *Pediococcus* species, a *Pseudomonas* species, a *Sphingomonas* species, a *Mycobacterium* species, a *Rhodococcus* species, a fungal species and a yeast species.

19. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the stock inoculum material in step (I) comprises at least two starter culture strains.

20. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the starter culture is selected from industries from the group consisting of the food, feed and pharmaceutical industry.

21. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the starter culture is used for inoculation of milk which is further processed to obtain a dairy product, which is selected from the group consisting of cheese, yogurt, butter, inoculated sweet milk and a liquid fermented milk product.